THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The Government of India have provided for a new interest subsidy scheme called the "Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme" (AREP) in the budget for the year 2002-03 with a provision of Rs. 164 crore.

It was resolved in the Chief Minister's Conference held on 3rd March, 2001 to complete village electrification by the end of 10th Plan *i.e.* by the year 2007 and the coverage of all households by the year 2012. In order to attain this objective rural electrification has been treated as a Basic Minimum Service and has been included under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001-02. Under this programme, Ministry of Finance on the recommendations of Ministry of Power have released an amount of Rs. 412.236 crores to the States during 2001-02. Ministry of Finance have also released an amount of Rs. 175 crores during 2001-02 under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) for rural electrification.

The Planning Commission have made an allocation of Rs. 2747.00 crores for all the six components of PMGY including rural electrification, as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for the year 2002-03. Under the revised guidelines of PMGY formulated by the Planning Commission, the States would have flexibility to decide the *inter-se* allocation of ACA among the six PMGY sectors, as per their own plan priorities and discretion. The Planning Commission have made a budget provision of Rs. 600 crore as ACA for rural electrification under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) for 2002-03.

In addition to this, Rural Electrification Corporation have formulated new schemes for electrification of dalit bastis and hamlets at lower rate of interest.

**Loss of power during transmission**

*713. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the general percentage of loss of power during transmission in the country;

(b) whether there is any acceptable level in this regard at the world level;

(c) the steps taken for minimizing such losses; and

(d) the major cause of loss of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) According to the Annual Report of the Planning Commission (June 2001) on the working of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and Electricity Departments (EDs) the transmission losses (provisional) for the year 1999-2000 (RE) were pegged at 23.7% and for 2000-01 (Plan estimates) at 23%. The T&D losses in the developed countries are in the range of 5%—15%. As per the "Guidelines for Reduction of T&D losses" issued by the Central Electricity Authority, taking into consideration the Indian conditions, it would be reasonable to aim at the figures of T&D losses in between 10—15%.

(c) The responsibility for distribution of power rests with the State governments/Electricity Boards. In order to reduce the T&D losses Central Electricity Authority has issued Guidelines which provide for the following:

- Upgradation of operating voltages
- Reduction of length of LT lines
- Location of Transformers near load centres
- Adoption of low capacity transformers near consumer premises
- Installation of shunt capacitors
- Improvement in construction and operation techniques, and
- Systematic and methodical approach for planning and design of distribution systems on long-term basis.

Central Electricity Authority has also issued guidelines for conducting Energy Audit. These Guidelines lay down the procedure for conducting Energy Audit studies for identification of losses and reduction of the same.

The Indian Electricity Act, 1910 has been amended to make theft of energy and its abetment a cognizable offence with deterrent

punishment upto 3 years imprisonment. Stricter provisions and penalties are envisaged in the Electricity Bill, 2001 in case of power thefts.

In the Chief Ministers'/Power Ministers' Conference held on 3.3.2001, it was resolved that State Governments/State Power Utilities would take the following steps to reduce technical and commercial losses:

(a) Energy Audit at all 11 KV feeders will be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.

(b) An effective Management Information System (MIS) for t is purpose, will be made operational.

(c) On the basis of the above, an effective programme will be launched for identifying and eliminating power thefts in the next 2 years.

(d) Full Metering of all consumers will be completed by December 2001. Special efforts would be made to complete the programme.

(e) The quality of power supplied especially in rural areas will be improved through the Accelerated Power Development Programme.

(f) Commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following:

- Creating profit centres with full accountability.
- Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary.
- Privatisation of distribution.
- Or any other means.

(g) Efforts by States, at inviting private investment in the power sector need to be focussed towards the distribution sector.

(h) Current operations in distribution would need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns there after.

The Government of India has also launched a scheme for Accelerated Power Development Programme for Renovation & Modernization/Life Extension and uprating of existing old power plants and upgradation of Sub-transmission & distribution network including energy audit activities and metering in the distribution circles in a phased manner. In the first phase of this programme since rechristened as Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP), 63 distribution circles in the States have been taken up for intensive upgradation so as to serve as models. The Government has made an allocation of Rs. 3500 crores during 2002-03 under the APDRP.

(d) The major causes of loss of power in the country are:—

(i) Inadequate investments on transmission and distribution; particularly in sub-transmission and distribution. While the desired investment ratio between generation, Transmission & Distribution should be 1:1, the investment in Transmission & Distribution has been low, and of the order of 1:0.5. This low investment has resulted in overloading of the distribution system without commensurate strengthening and augmentation.

(ii) Haphazard growth of sub-transmission and distribution system with the short-term objective of extension of power supply to new areas.

(iii) Large-scale rural electrification through long 11KV and LT lines.

(iv) Too many transformation stages.

(v) Improper load management.

(vi) Poor quality of equipment used in agricultural pumping in rural areas and coolers, air-conditioners and industrial loads in urban areas.

(vii) Inadequate reactive compensation at load points.

Transmission & Distribution losses also occur on account of pilferage and theft of energy, unmetered supply to agriculture and

domestic consumers, unauthorized connection from distribution systems, willful tampering of the meters by consumers, non-functioning and defective meters.

**Terrorists killed in Jammu and Kashmir**

†*714. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of terrorists killed on the border of Jammu and Kashmir and inside the border in the year 2001-02;

(b) the terrorist outfits to which the said terrorists belonged to;

(c) the total number of security personnel killed during the encounters at various locations with terrorists during the same period;

(d) whether Government have sent any special team for getting first hand knowledge of the problems being faced by the security personnel posted on various borders of the country particularly along the Pakistan border; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) As per information made available by the State Government of J&K the number of terrorists killed in the calendar years 2001 and 2002 (upto April) are 2020 and 601 respectively.

(b) These terrorists belonged predominantly to Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Hizbul Mujahideen, Harkat-up-Mujahideen and related sister organizations.

(c) The total number of forces personnel killed during the calendar years 2001 and 2002 (upto April) are 536 and 104 respectively.

(d) and (e) No special team has been constituted by the government for getting a first hand knowledge of the problems being faced by the security personnel posted on various borders particularly along the Pak border. However, senior officers of the Army and the CPMFs keep interacting constantly with their respective lower formations, particularly the troops to ensure that their problems are attended to promptly and properly.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.